

## Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 03730 040034Z

50

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ACDA-19 ISO-00 AEC-11 CIAE-00 H-03 INR-10

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6607

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORIY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T USNATO 3730

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR: JULY 2 INFORMAL DISCUSSION WITH UK WG REPS ON AIR

DEFENSE DATA

REF: A) STATE 139843; B) USNATO 3660; C) USNATO 3675

1. IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO JULY 2 WG MEETING UK REPS (MG ABRAHAMS AND COL. GEHRATY WHO COME, AS WASHINGTON AWARE (SEE USNATO 3528) FROM FCO/MOD) CALLED AT MISSION TO REVIEW LATEST (REF A) EXPLANATORY DATA WHICH MISSION INTENDED TO CIRCULATE IN COMMITTEE, AND TO GO OVER STRATEGY FOR PERSUADING OTHER ALLIES TO ACCEPT FIGURES.

2. UK REPS CONFIRMED UK DEL'S EARLIER INDICATION (SEE REF B) THAT LONDON COULD ACCEPT NEW REF A EXPLANATORY FIGURES, BUT ADDED THEY WERE RELUCTANT TO SAY SO IN COMMITTEE SINCE AIR DEFENSE SECTOR WAS SECRET

PAGE 02 NATO 03730 040034Z

NEITHER ADDRESSED NOR RESOLVED. FACT THAT THEY CONTINUED TO REMAIN UNRESOLVED WAS MAJOR LIABILITY IN USEFULNESS OF NEW FIGURES. UK THEREFORE WISHED TO STATE FOLLOWING POSITION:

A) RESOLUTION OF AIR DEFENSE SECTOR IS ESSENTIAL BECAUSE ANY RE-DEFINITION OF GROUND FORCES, AS CURRENTLY UNDER DISCUSSION IN VIENNA, CANNOT BE UNDERTAKEN WITHOUT EXAMINATION OF AIR DEFENSE ELEMENTS. THESE ELEMENTS MUST THEREFORE BE AGREED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AND THEN INCORPORATED INTO NEW EXPLANATORY TABLES.

B) UK BELIEVES THAT, SINCE ENTIRE EXERCISE IS FOR MBFR PURPOSES RELATED TO MANPOWER, BREAKDOWNS IN AREA AIR DEFENSE COMMAND FIELD NEED ONLY BE CONFINED TO PERSONNEL TOTALS BY COUNTRY AND COLOR OF UNIFORM. THERE IS NO NEED TO GET INTO DETAILS OF NUMBERS AND TYPES OF AIR DEFENSE UNITS/ELEMENTS AS THEY APPEAR IN TABLES B AND C OF USNATO 3527). SUCH AN APPROACH, UK BELIEVES, MIGHT ALSO GET AROUND PROBLEM OF HAVING U.S. REVEAL TO FRG ITS INTELLIGENCE SOURCES.

C) UK THEREFORE BELIEVES THAT REACHING INITIALLY TRILATERAL, AND SUBSEQUENTLY ALLIANCE WIDE, AGREEMENT ON DETAILS WITHIN AIR DEFENSE SECTOR SHOULD NOT AWAIT MC 224 CONFERENCE, AS U.S. HAD EARLIER ADVOCATED (SEE USNATO 3526, AS DRAWN FROM STATE 130942).

3. MISSION OFFICER ASKED WHETHER UK REPS WOULD BE PREPARED TO ENDORSE REF A EXPLANATORY DATA (AND THUS WP GROUND AND AIR MANPOWER TOTALS, TOGETHER WITH SSM AND HELICOPTER FIGURES) IN WG MEETING IF U.S. WERE PREPARED TO ACCELERATE TRILATERAL AGREEMENT ON AIR DEFENSE PROBLEM. UK REPS SAID THEY WOULD DO SO IF MISSION OFFICER COULD PROVIDE THIS ASSURANCE. THEY ADDED THAT IT WOULD BE ESSENTIAL FOR ANY OF THE THREE ALLIES TO BE ABLE TO MAKE SUCH A STATEMENT IN THE WG IF OTHER ALLIES HUNG IN ON ABSENCE OF AIR DEFENSE QUESTION IN (REF A) EXPLANATORY DATA, AND THEN ASKED WHAT THE THREE INTENDED TO DO ABOUT IT. MISSION OFFICER SAID HE WOULD UNDERTAKE TO PROVIDE THIS ASSURANCE IN TIME FOR WG MEETING. IN TELECON WITH DEFENSE MBFR TASK FORCE CHIEF (MICHAEL) MISSION OFFICER EXPLAINED WHAT APPEARED TO BE MINOR TECHNICAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEM. HAVING RECEIVED THE REQUIRED ASSURANCE, MISSION OFFICER TOLD UK REPS JUST BEFORE THE MEETING THAT U.S. WOULD BE PREPARED TO WORK OUT AGREEMENT WITH UK AT EARLIEST  
SECRET

PAGE 03 NATO 03730 040034Z

OPPORTUNITY AND IN MANNER MOST CONVENIENT TO THEM. UK REPS SAID THEY WERE THEREUPON PREPARED TO PUSH FOR IMMEDIATE ACCEPTANCE OF NEW DATA AND REF A EXPLANATIONS IN WG. THIS CONTRIBUTED HEAVILY TO SUBSEQUENT ALLIED ACCEPTANCE OF NEW WP DATA, AS REPORTED IN REF C.

4. FOLLOWING MEETING, MISSION OFFICER ASKED HOW UK REPS WOULD LIKE TO WORK OUT AIR DEFENSE PROBLEM. THEY REPLIED THAT LONDON WOULD SEND UK AIR DEFENSE HOLDINGS TO UK EMBASSY WASHINGTON WITH AIM OF ACHIEVING AGREEMENT BY CABLE EXCHANGE. WHILE EXPRESSING CONFIDENCE THAT THIS APPROACH WOULD RESOLVE PROBLEM, AS FALL-BACK THEY SAID U.S. INTELLIGENCE REPS WOULD BE MOST WELCOME TO VISIT LONDON. MOD UNFORTUNATELY SHORT OF TRAVEL FUNDS TO RETURN

AGAIN TO WASHINGTON.

5. ON QUESTION OF SECURING FRG AGREEMENT, UK REPS SUGGESTED THAT  
U.S. AND UK FIRST SOLVE THEIR OWN PROBLEM, AND THEN U.S. OR U.S.  
AND UK COULD MAKE APPROPRIATE DEMARCHE IN BONN. MISSION OFFICER  
SAID HE WOULD REPORT UK'S PROPOSAL. RUMSFELD

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